

## Message Text

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ACTION OIC-02

INFO OCT-01 SS-15 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08

EA-12 EUR-12 FRB-01 INR-10 IO-14 NEA-10 NSAE-00

ICA-20 OPIC-06 SP-02 TRSE-00 LAB-04 AGRE-00

OMB-01 XMB-04 L-03 H-02 PA-02 NSC-05 ISO-00 /140 W

-----084944 270627Z /13

R 261130Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 945

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 COLOMBO 3387

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, OCON, CE

SUBJ: COLOMBO PLAN: REQUEST FOR SUGGESTIONS ON MAJOR ISSUES  
FOR DISCUSSION AT 27TH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

1. THE FOLLOWING REQUEST FROM THE COLOMBO PLAN BUREAU  
(C 78/22, 17 MAY 1978) WAS RECEIVED IN MAY BUT WAS INADVERTENTLY  
NOT FORWARDED TO THE DEPARTMENT. THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE  
A CABLE REPLY.

2. QUOTE:

1. THE COUNCIL AT ITS 144TH MEETING HELD ON 9 MAY 1978  
ACCEPTED THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATION OF THE WORKING GROUP  
ON CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING DOCUMENTATION AND PROCEDURES:  
MAJOR ISSUES: THE SUBJECTS SHOULD BE KNOWN IN ADVANCE OF A  
MEETING SINCE THE COMPLEXITY OF DEVELOPMENT ISSUES MAKES IT  
IMPOSSIBLE FOR MINISTERS TO PARTICIPATE IN A MEANINGFUL DISCUSSION  
WITHOUT HAVING HAD PRIOR OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY THE PROBLEMS  
INVOLVED. ISSUES CHOSEN FOR DISCUSSION AS SPECIAL TOPICS ARE  
OF A LONG-TERM NATURE AND THEREFORE IT IS PRACTICABLE FOR THE  
CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ITSELF TO SELECT THE SPECIAL TOPIC FOR THEIR  
NEXT MEETING. THIS IS NOT THE CASE IN RELATION TO THE MAJOR  
ISSUES. TO EW SCOPE FOR THE SELECTION OF MAJOR ISSUES OF  
TOPICAL INTEREST:

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(I) THE BUREAU SHOULD REQUEST MEMBER GOVERNMENTS TO SEND IN  
THEIR SUGGESTIONS FOR THE MAJOR ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED, ABOUT  
SIX MONTHS BEFORE THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETS. GOVERNMENTS  
WOULD BE FREE TO SUGGEST PARTICULAR ASPECTS OF THE SPECIAL TOPIC  
FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR OTHER SUBJECTS,

(II) THE BUREAU SHOULD CIRCULATE TO MEMBER GOVERNMENTS A LIST  
OF THE VARIOUS PROPOSALS RECEIVED. THE COUNCIL, WHICH IS EMPOWERED

TO ACT ON BEHALF OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE BETWEEN MEETINGS OF THE LATTER, WOULD SELECT THREE OR FOUR ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED. THIS WOULD THEN ENABLE MEMBER COUNTRIES TO PREPARE THEMSELVES BEFORE THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MET. (REFERENCE PARAGRAPH 35(D) OF C 78/13 OF 25 MARCH 1978)

2. MEMBER GOVERNMENTS ARE ACCORDINGLY REQUESTED TO SEND IN THEIR SUGGESTIONS FOR TOPICS WHICH MIGHT BE DISCUSSED AS MAJOR ISSUES AT THE 27TH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN WASHINGTON. IT IS REQUESTED THAT THESE SUGGESTIONS SHOULD REACH THE BUREAU NOT LATER THAN 20 JULY 1978.

3. IN CONSIDERING POSSIBLE TOPICS GOVERNMENTS SHOULD BE GUIDED BY THE CRITERIA WHICH HAVE BEEN LAID DOWN FOR THE SELECTION OF MAJOR ISSUES AND WHICH ARE SET OUT IN ANNEX I. AT ANNEX II IS A LIST OF THE MAJOR ISSUES DISCUSSED AT RECENT MEETINGS OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE.

4. WHEN THE SUGGESTIONS OF MEMBER GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED, AN AMALGAMATED LIST WILL BE CIRCULATED BY THE BUREAU TO COUNCIL MEMBERS WITH A VIEW TO THE COUNCIL SELECTING AT A MEETING IN SEPTEMBER THREE OR FOUR TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION BY MINISTERS AT THE 27TH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING.

ANNEX I - CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF MAJOR ISSUES (A) THE MAJOR ISSUES SHOULD BE MATTERS THAT CONCERN AS MANY MEMBER COUNTRIES AS POSSIBLE AND, IN PARTICULAR, SHOULD BE OF INTEREST TO COUNTRIES IN THE COLOMBO PLAN REGION,

(B) THEY SHOULD BE ISSUES ON WHICH MINISTERS FROM REGIONAL AND NON-REGIONAL COUNTRIES CAN USEFULLY COMMENT FROM THEIR DIFFERING  
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PERSPECTIVES,

(C) THEY SHOULD BE OF IMMEDIATE AND CURRENT CONCERN TO MEMBER COUNTRIES,

(D) THEY SHOULD BE SUCH THAT THEY LEND THEMSELVES TO INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS BY MINISTERS WHICH WOULD BE USEFUL TO MINISTERS THEMSELVES AND TO THEIR GOVERNMENTS. SUBJECTS OF TOO NARROW A SCOPE OR TOO TECHNICAL A NATURE SHOULD ACCORDINGLY BE AVOIDED,

(E) THEY SHOULD BE RELATED TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ANLSPREFERABLY MATTERS OF GOVERNMENT POLICY,

(F) THEY SHOULD NOT BE OVERLY CONTROVERSIAL. THUS, ISSUES OF A POLITICAL NATURE SHOULD BE AVOIDED,

(G) THEY SHOULD BE RELATED TO DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AND SHOULD PREFERABLY DEAL WITH MATTERS WHICH COULD BE FOLLOWED UP BY THE PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE UNDER THE PLAN,

(H) THEY SHOULD PREFERABLY BE SUBJECTS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN DISCUSSED IN DEPTH AT RECENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

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ACTION OIC-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00  
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AGRE-00 OMB-01 XMB-04 L-03 H-02 PA-02 NSC-05  
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ANNEX II LIST OF MAJOR ISSUES RECENTLY DISCUSSED BY THE  
CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

1. THE FOLLOWING WERE THE MAJOR ISSUES DISCUSSED AT THE  
24TH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, 1974:

- (A) THE ADAPTATION OF ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT POLICIES IN  
THE LIGHT OF RECENT ECONOMIC EVENTS AND THEIR IMPACT ON THE  
ECONOMIES OF COLOMBO PLAN COUNTRIES,
- (B) EMERGENCY FOOD AID, AND
- (C) MAJOR POLICY ISSUES IN COPING WITH THE PROBLEMS OR URBAN-  
ISATION.

THE 25TH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, 1975, DECIDED TO  
DISCUSS AN ASPECT OF THE SPECIAL TOPIC SELECTED FOR THAT  
MEETING. THE MAJOR ISSUE WAS THE ROLE OF EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE  
IN INCREASING AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVING FOOD  
DISTRIBUTION IN THE COLOMBO PLAN AREA . THIS TOPIC WAS DISCUSSED  
UNDER THE FOLLOWING HEADINGS:

- (A) PROBLEM OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT.
- (B) HOW TO IMPROVE UPON COUNTRY PLANNING FOR AGRICULTURAL AND  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT.
- (C) PROBLEMS OF THE TRANSFER OF AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY AND THE  
ROLE OF RESEARCH.
- (D) SHARING OF LOCAL COSTS IN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

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3. THE MAJOR ISSUES DISCUSSED AT THE 26TH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE  
MEETING, 1977, WERE:

- (A) THE NEED FOR EMPLOYMENT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY,
- (CB) THE DEVELOPMENT, MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION OF NATURAL  
RESOURCES INCLUDING WATER RESOURCES,

(C) PROMOTION OF SKILLS THROUGH NON-FORMAL EDUCATION IN RURAL AREAS,

(D) THE WIDENING OF FORMS AND LEVELS OF TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION WITHIN THE COLOMBO PLAN. END QUOTE.

3. COMMENT: THE BUREAU WOULD LIKE TO CIRCULATE A LIST OF SUGGESTED MAJOR ISSUES SIX WEEKS IN ADVANCE OF THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 28, 1978. THE EMBASSY, THEREFORE, WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING THE DEPARTMENT S SUGGESTIONS BY AUGUST 15.

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## Message Attributes

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